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Sport for development and peace

Strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 71/160. In the report, the Secretary-General provides a review of progress towards the implementation of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace and proposes an update to the Action Plan, drawing on input received from Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders. It also includes recommendations for action by Member States and the United Nations system that bring the existing tracks of sport-based policy and practice at the international level closer together in order to promote improved coherence and collaboration in placing sport at the service of humanity, as an enabler of sustainable development.

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I. Introduction

1. In the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Member States recognized sport as an important enabler of sustainable development, highlighting its growing contribution to the realization of development and peace in its promotion of tolerance and respect. In that context, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/160, invited Member States, the United Nations system and other stakeholders to promote greater awareness and action to foster development and peace and contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through sport-based initiatives and to promote the integration of sport for development and peace in the development agenda. In so doing, the Assembly invited action across four priority areas, in line with the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, to: (a) further develop a global framework for sport for development and peace; (b) promote and support the integration and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies; (c) promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements; and (d) promote and facilitate monitoring and evaluation tools.

2. Pursuant to resolution 71/160, the present report provides the Assembly with an overview of progress made by stakeholders towards the implementation of the Action Plan across its four priority areas. The report reflects information submitted by Member States[1] and the United Nations system[2] with regard to sport-based initiatives undertaken from 2016 to 2018, as well as the deliberations and recommendations of an ad hoc expert group meeting and inter-agency dialogue convened by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in 2018 on the theme "Strengthening the global framework for leveraging sport for development and peace".[3] Thematic priorities, methodological trends, major challenges and opportunities for further progress along the lines of the action plan are identified in the report. An update to the Action Plan is proposed and related recommendations for action by Member States and the United Nations system are presented to strengthen ties across the existing tracks of sport-based policy and practice at the international level in order to promote improved coherence and collaboration in leveraging sport as an enabler of sustainable development.

II. Developing a global framework

3. A shared vision and approach to the promotion and mainstreaming of sport for development and peace is quickly emerging across the international community. Using the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as firm foundations

[1] A note verbale dated 23 April 2018 from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs was sent to all Member States, in which they were requested to provide input for the present report; 11 Member States responded to the request: Austria, Germany, Guatemala, Hungary, Mexico, Monaco, Palau, Philippines, Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine.

[2] A memorandum dated 10 May 2018 from the Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs was sent to United Nations entities inviting input for the present report; 14 entities responded: Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Department of Public Information, Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, International Labour Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Volunteers and the World Bank Group.

[3] See www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2018-expert-group-meetings-and-panel-discussions/sport-development-peace.html.

for their efforts, Member States, the United Nations system, international sport federations and other stakeholders are establishing frameworks for collaborative action on sport, physical activity and active play that use sport as a platform for achieving wider development outcomes rather than focusing on sport as an end in itself. The frameworks for action feature a wide range of goals, including personal and interpersonal social development, health promotion, conflict resolution, intercultural dialogue, social inclusion and economic development. They are aimed at both capitalizing on and strengthening core attributes of participation in sport, physical activity and active play, including the universality of participation in sport and physical activity, the potential of sport to connect individuals and groups, the potential of sport to create self-affirming attitudes, motivation and inspiration, the contribution of sport to physical health and the potential of sport to serve as a context for learning life skills. At the international level, Governments have endorsed the implementation of two major frameworks in this regard, the Kazan Action Plan and the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030.

A. Kazan Action Plan and the sport policy follow-up framework of the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport

4. In 2017 the sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport, convened by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), adopted the Kazan Action Plan, incorporating the sport policy follow-up framework proposed by the Conference, which intended "to facilitate international and multi-stakeholder policy convergence, ease international cooperation and foster capacity-building efforts of governmental authorities and sport organisations".[4] At its thirty-ninth session, held in Paris from 30 October to 14 November 2017, the General Conference of UNESCO welcomed the Kazan Action Plan as a "voluntary, overarching reference for fostering international convergence amongst policy-makers in the fields of physical education, physical activity and sport, as well as a tool for aligning international and national policy in these fields with the United Nations 2030 Agenda".[5]

5. The Action Plan and its follow-up framework are oriented along three main policy areas that address inclusive access for all to sport, physical education and physical activity, maximizing the contributions of sport to sustainable development and peace and protecting the integrity of sport. In the Action Plan, the alignment of the sport sector and of sport-based initiatives with sustainable development priorities is encouraged and specific development areas for which there is evidence that sport has a significant impact are outlined.

6. In the Action Plan and its follow-up framework, priority is given to 10 of the Sustainable Development Goals and 36 of the associated targets where sport-based approaches effectively contribute, namely: Goal 3 (good health and well-being), Goal 4 (quality education), Goal 5 (gender equality), Goal 8 (decent work and economic growth), Goal 10 (reduced inequalities), Goal 11 (sustainable cities and communities), Goal 12 (responsible consumption and production), Goal 13 (climate action), Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) and Goal 17 (partnership for the Goals). With a focus on these Goals, the Action Plan serves to build on research conducted at the

[4] See final report of the Sixth International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport (SHS/2017/5 REV), held in Kazan, Russian Federation, on 14 and 15 July 2017.

[5] See UNESCO, *Records of the General Conference, Thirty-ninth Session, Paris, 30 October–14 November 2017, vol. 1, Resolutions*, chap. IV, resolution 30.

international level[6] and in the European context[7] to analyse the contributions of sport to development objectives.

B. Global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030

7. At its seventy-first session, in 2018, in the context of action to address the growing prevalence of noncommunicable diseases, the World Health Assembly endorsed the global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030, which was developed by the World Health Organization in collaboration with the United Nations Interagency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases.[8] The global action plan is aimed at ensuring that all people have access to safe and enabling environments and to a range of opportunities that allow them to be physically active in their daily lives, as a means of improving individual and community health and contributing to the social, cultural and economic development of all nations. It is aimed at achieving a 15 per cent reduction in the global prevalence of physical inactivity in adults and adolescents by 2030.

8. According to the global action plan, efforts to reduce inactivity would contribute to the achievement of 13 of the Sustainable Development Goals, if a systems-based, whole-of-society approach to addressing physical inactivity were implemented. Not surprisingly, there is a direct overlap with the 10 Goals to which sport is found to contribute most readily. In addition, the following Goals are prioritized in the global plan: Goal 2 (zero hunger); Goal 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); Goal 15 (life on land); and Goal 17 (partnerships for the Goals). Policy actions under the global plan focus on raising awareness and building knowledge of the benefits of regular physical activity, depending on ability, at all ages; promoting universal access to physical activity, including through equitable access to safe places and safe spaces; increasing opportunities for engagement in physical activity at the individual, family and community levels; and strengthening systems for implementation at all levels.

C. Common vision

1. Aligned policy priorities

9. The Kazan Action Plan and global action plan on physical activity 2018–2030 are clearly complementary in addition to the overlaps in their alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals. In the global action plan, in fact, the Kazan Action Plan is cited as a reference for the commitment of Member States to promoting healthy childhood development through physical activity.[9] While the global plan is aimed at promoting physical activity in itself as a measure of health, with contributions to other development areas as secondary benefits of a whole-of-society approach, the Kazan Action Plan looks more widely at the effective integration of policies on sport, physical education, physical activity and sport-based initiatives within broader development policy frameworks. As such, the global plan is an effective complement to the broader policy focus of the Kazan Action Plan, providing

[6] See, for example, The Commonwealth, *Enhancing the Contribution of Sport to the Sustainable Development Goals* (Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 2017), and The Commonwealth, *Sport for Development and Peace and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Commonwealth Analysis* (Commonwealth Secretariat, London, 2015).

[7] See, for example, Centre for Economics and Business Research, *The Economic Cost of Physical Inactivity in Europe: An International Sport and Culture Association and Centre for Economics and Business Research* (London, 2015).

[8] See www.who.int/news-room/detail/25-05-2018-seventy-first-world-health-assembly-update-25-may.

[9] World Health Organization, *Global Action Plan on Physical Activity 2018–2030: More Active People for a Healthier World* (Geneva, Switzerland, 2018).

a deeper look and comprehensive course of action for universalizing access and eliminating barriers to physical activity and maximizing the contribution of physical activity to improving health and well-being for all, particularly those groups of society in situations of vulnerability or marginalization.

10. The frameworks were established through inclusive processes, drawing on expertise from Governments and key stakeholders across various sectors, including the United Nations system and related organizations, academia, sport organizations and other civil society partners. As such, the frameworks are undergirded by a level of legitimacy that will drive their implementation. Nonetheless, broad political commitment is necessary to ensure sustained progress. There is already growing convergence around the Kazan Action Plan in the alignment of work on sport across the United Nations system, and Member States have begun to recognize its potential as a pivot point for policy coordination. For example, the Human Rights Council, at its thirty-seventh session, in 2018, adopted resolution 37/18, entitled "Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal" in which it acknowledged the Kazan Action Plan, and the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, at its seventh session, in 2017, recalled the Action Plan, with particular reference to main policy area III of its follow-up framework.[10]

2. Platforms for global dialogue and deliberation

11. There is a growing platform for dialogue on sport for development and peace across the United Nations intergovernmental architecture. Among the components are the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport and the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport and its Permanent Consultative Council, comprising organizations of the United Nations system, regional intergovernmental organizations, sport organizations, including the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee, International Federation of Association Football and International Association of Athletic Federations, and civil society partners. The General Assembly also considers sport for development and peace annually, while the annual Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption addresses corruption in sport.

12. According to resolution 37/18, the Human Rights Council decided to incorporate into its programme of work a thematic panel discussion on promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal. The panel will be held every four years in the lead-up to the summer Olympic and Paralympic Games, with the first to be held at the forty-fourth session of the Council, ahead of the Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo in 2020. Furthermore, in October 2018 the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council will consider the possibilities of using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all and to strengthen universal respect for them.

13. The adoption in 2017, by the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, of resolution 7/8 on corruption in sport, adds a further dimension to the emerging global framework because it seeks to ensure the integrity of sport and avoid undermining the potential contribution of sport to the 2030 Agenda and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals. The resolution covers a wide range of issues aimed primarily at preventing, detecting, investigating and sanctioning the use of sport for illicit or illegal gain.

[10] See www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/COSP/session7-resolutions.html.

3. Olympic Truce

14. Recognition of the concept of the Olympic Truce remains an integral part of the burgeoning global policy framework on sport for development and peace. The United Nations is resolved to continue its efforts to advance peace through sport and press for ceasefires. In the lead-up to the winter Olympic and Paralympic Games to be held in 2018, the General Assembly adopted resolution 72/6 on building a peaceful and better world through sport and the Olympic ideal. In the resolution, the Assembly urged Member States to observe the Olympic Truce individually and collectively, within the framework of the Charter of the United Nations. The concept of the Olympic Truce as promoted by the United Nations is built upon the ancient Greek tradition of *ekecheiria*, calling for a truce during the Olympic Games to encourage a peaceful environment and ensure safe passage, access and participation for athletes and relevant persons at the Games. In this way, the Olympic Truce is a collective mobilization around peace through sport and sport participation.

15. The concept of protection through sport and safe spaces for sport participation has transcended the Olympic Games and mega events to inform sport-based initiatives as well as the dialogue on sport integrity. The safeguarding of athletes, spectators, workers and other stakeholders, in fact, features as a priority in the Kazan Action Plan under policy area III, on protecting the integrity of sport. The global action plan on physical activity also emphasizes safe places for engagement in physical activity as a priority area. Many of the initiatives reported by Member States and the United Nations system also had this focus.

4. Sport governance and administration to the service of humanity

16. It is important to effectively bridge the sport governance and sport administration agendas with the prevailing sustainable development objectives if sport and physical activity are to reach their full contributory potential. While supporting the independence and autonomy of sport, the General Assembly, in its resolution 71/160, encouraged relevant entities involved in the development and implementation of major sporting events to respect applicable laws and international principles related to human rights and development in order to safeguard the potential positive impact of such events. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 37/18, made similar observations.

17. Realizing this aspiration requires the complementary vision and leadership of governing and administrative sport bodies at the international level, including the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee and International Federation of Association Football. The International Olympic Committee has emerged as a forerunner and ardent advocate in this regard. While it is not a policymaking body in the development context, its role in driving the priorities assigned to sport administration and event development across the breadth of Olympic sport positions it as an important ally in shaping the contribution of sport to national and international development efforts. The Committee is pushing forward the implementation of its Olympic Agenda 2020, with its three pillars of credibility, sustainability and youth. Sustainability has become a key aspect in the development of the Olympic Games and in the overall operations of the International Olympic Committee.[11] Through the implementation of the Olympic Agenda 2020 and its related sustainability strategy,[12] the Committee will be a major driver in maximizing the positive impact of sporting events and sport participation in the social, economic and environmental spheres while minimizing the negative impact. The International Olympic Committee has positioned itself as an interlocutor in this regard, providing

[11] See www.olympic.org/olympic-agenda-2020.

[12] See www.olympic.org/sustainability.

mechanisms to ensure the exchange of information and good practices across the Olympic movement.

18. Similarly, in 2016, the International Federation of Association Football released its strategic road map, *FIFA 2.0: The Vision for the Future*. In fulfilling its mission to promote the game of football, protect its integrity and bring the game to all, the Federation recognizes that football has social power and can be a catalyst for leading and shaping societal change. Its strategy is also built on the understanding that, increasingly, the world demands that sport governance structures give attention to the key principles of international development, including sustainability, respect for human rights, inclusion and economic inequality and its impact. As such, it has committed to maximizing community impact, promoting sport as a vehicle for social development, fighting discrimination, promoting sustainability and highlighting fair play, with a particular focus on the organization and preparation of the quadrennial World Cup. The Federation has committed to building the capacity of its member associations and civil society partners to align with its approach.

III. Promoting the mainstreaming of sport for development and peace: reports from the field

19. Governments, the United Nations system and related entities and other stakeholders are deepening their efforts to leverage sport and physical activity to attain broader policy objectives at the regional, national and local levels. In the preparation of the present report, Member States, the United Nations system and related entities were invited to provide information on current sport-based initiatives, including the alignment of these initiatives, if any, with broader development goals and policy initiatives. The reported initiatives fell within a few broad categories, namely sport-based advocacy, sport for society and sport integrity. Initiatives were also found, or reported, to be in alignment with one or more of the 10 Sustainable Development Goals prioritized in the Kazan Action Plan, including the mainstreaming of partnerships for the Goals, encapsulated in Goal 17. A few initiatives also demonstrated alignment with Goal 1 on the eradication of poverty. The discussion in the present section synthesizes the reported information, including highlighting the similarities and complementarities in the policy priorities, programme structure and objectives. A summary of the reported initiatives is available online.[13]

A. Sport-based advocacy

20. Some reported initiatives tapped the potential of sport events and sport participation as a platform to raise awareness and engage the general public in advocating for development-related causes.

21. Monaco reported on its No Finish Line initiative, a "never-ending" race held annually since 1999, in collaboration with the association Children and Future. For eight days participants can walk or run along a 1,400 m circuit. In 2017, 12,927 people participated in the initiative and walked or ran 436,963 km, raising one euro for each kilometre walked or run to support concrete actions for disadvantaged or sick children.

22. The Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the World Bank Group also reported on advocacy-focused initiatives. To commemorate the International Day of

[13] See www.un.org/esa/socdev/sport/summary-inputs.pdf.

Sport for Development and Peace in 2018, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs initiated the #PlayforGlobalGoals online campaign to celebrate the growing contribution of sport to development and peace through the promotion of tolerance, respect, the empowerment of women and youth, health, education and social inclusion. FAO, UNICEF, UNDP and the World Bank Group reported on their work with sportspersons as ambassadors and spokespersons to promote various development objectives. FAO, for example, leverages sport events and sportspersons to engage the media in the global campaign for zero hunger. Similarly, UNICEF is galvanizing its strong network of sport partnerships and athletes who serve as goodwill ambassadors to support major integrated global campaign work in areas such as migration and positive parenting. UNDP also engages with famous athletes to communicate on the Sustainable Development Goals, mobilize communities and fundraise for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The World Bank Group takes a similar approach in its Sport4Climate initiative, which capitalizes on the fame of athletes and the popularity of the sport industry to spread the word about climate change and advocate for Governments, business leaders and everyday global citizens to act now.

23. The Department of Public Information and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, with support from the United Nations Office for Partnerships and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, are developing collaboration between the United Nations system, including its agencies, funds and programmes, and the International Olympic Committee, International Paralympic Committee and the organizing committee of the Olympic Games to be held in Tokyo in 2020. The collaboration framework is aimed at providing a United Nations-wide platform leading up to and during the Olympic and Paralympic Games in Tokyo in 2020 to highlight them as a benchmark for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in a major sporting event, including zero net emissions, ethical labour practices, sustainable sourcing and recycling. The platform will also advocate for the Sustainable Development Goals among the general public, with a focus on inclusion through parity of focus on the Olympic and Paralympic Games and through acknowledging the accomplishments of female athletes and athletes from vulnerable situations, including violent conflict.

B. Sport for society

24. Most initiatives reported by Member States highlighted advances in national policies to capitalize on sport and physical activity to promote healthy living among all segments of the population. Guatemala, Hungary, Mexico, Monaco, Palau, the Russian Federation and Ukraine reported on advances in this regard. A focus on well-planned, health-focused physical education programmes was a common approach. Guatemala, Hungary, Mexico, Palau and Ukraine all referenced specific time-bound action plans or similar policy initiatives that were aimed at increasing the exposure of all segments of society to physical activity and sport. In all cases, specific, measurable targets were set or observed. Guatemala, for example, instituted targets for physical activity for the general population. Similarly, the Russian Federation reported on its intention to increase to 55 per cent, by 2024, the proportion of its citizens who systematically engage in physical activity and sport, a proportion that stands at 36.8 per cent in 2018, up from 8.5 per cent in 2000. Monaco cited its integration of physical education and swimming lessons into school curricula, with attention given to quality instruction and infrastructure.

25. UNDP and UNICEF also reported on leveraging sport for health objectives. UNDP, for example, reported on the 2017 National Human Development Report for Brazil, which focused on the positive relationship between human development and

practising physical sports. In the publication entitled *Movement is Life: Sports and Physical Activities for Everyone*, UNDP noted the association of exercise with improvements in health, cognitive processes, sociability, productivity (due to better physical and mental health) and quality of life in general.

26. Many of the reported initiatives focused on tapping the convening power and value-based, transferable skill set of sport to build human and social capital and/or promote social integration, inclusion and cohesion. The use of sport training as a means of fostering the development of soft skills to promote social cohesion and/or social and economic empowerment and inclusion is a common approach. In many of the reported initiatives with these objectives, the reduction of violent behaviour and of exposure to violence also featured as a primary or secondary goal. Well-designed sport-based initiatives have proved successful in providing the platform for the types of psychosocial interventions required for reconciliation and resolution in post-conflict settings.[14] Sport supports the process of peacebuilding by bridging relationships across groups and communities that might otherwise tend towards distrust and hostility.[15]

27. Germany reported on a number of development cooperation initiatives undertaken in partnership with local and international partners across Government ministries, non-governmental organizations and sport federations that leverage sport for promoting social inclusion, fostering social cohesion and improving psychosocial well-being, gender equality and conflict resolution. These initiatives most often involved training coaches, teachers and community leaders in context-specific coaching and teaching methods that helped to impart the desired life skills and social and emotional competencies. Germany is carrying out initiatives in this regard in Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Mozambique, Namibia, Togo and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, with smaller-scale initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal. Austria also reported on its support for international cooperation on sport for development and peace through its federal grants for sport and development cooperation, and Monaco reported on the sport-based international cooperation activities of the Princess Charlene of Monaco Foundation.

28. UNESCO reported on its Quality Physical Education initiative, which features a cross-cutting approach to improving access to sport and physical activity while using the exposure to sport participation for the development of soft skills and social inclusion objectives. In 2016 and 2017 UNESCO and its partners assisted Fiji, Mexico, South Africa and Zambia in the revision of their national physical education policies, making them inclusive, appropriate in terms of development and child-centred, in line with the UNESCO policy package for quality physical education. With the partnership and funding of six international partners, UNESCO is also implementing an initiative to embed the values of sport, such as fairness, inclusion, respect and equity, across school-based curricula and support teachers in delivering curricula actively and cooperatively through values-based education.

29. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNDP, UNESCO, United Nations Volunteers and the World Bank Group reported on initiatives focused on education through sport that aimed at building resilient, inclusive communities. For example, ECLAC seeks to give visibility to and strengthen community projects led by youth aged between 15 and 17 years that are aimed at implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, many of which

[14] Anneke G. Van der Niet, "Football in post-conflict Sierra Leone", *African Historical Review*, vol. 42, No. 2 (2010), pp. 48–60.

[15] K. Höglund and R. Sundberg, "Reconciliation through sports? The case of South Africa", *Third World Quarterly*, vol. 29, No. 4 (2008), pp. 805–818.

tap the potential of sport. UNDP is working in many countries, including Colombia, the Dominican Republic, India and the Sudan, drawing on sport as a tool for inclusion, civic engagement and peace. UNESCO reported on its work with the Malabon city council in the Philippines to implement a sport-based city rejuvenation project to empower out-of-school youth and support their transition to the formal school system or alternative education and/or to employment in the formal economy. UNDP has also recently supported sport-related activities to promote soft diplomacy and cross-border cooperation in Kyrgyzstan and the Republic of Moldova. Similarly, United Nations Volunteers is using sport to promote social inclusion principles in conflict-affected eastern Ukraine. The World Bank Group has undertaken a project on sport and culture for development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to identify sports and other cultural activities that enhance the resilience, optimism and social well-being of children and youth. The activity will assess the institutional framework and societal context of the country to propose policy options and identify strategic investments and services that harness the educational benefits of sport and other recreational activities.

30. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) undertakes similarly focused and structured initiatives, with a particular focus on preventing youth crime and drug use. With its focus on crime prevention through social development, the UNODC youth global crime prevention initiative serves to strengthen the capacity of sport coaches and teachers to use sport for preventing youth crime and drug use, within relevant national frameworks. In addition, it supports innovative grass-roots initiatives through grants and shares best practices on sport for prevention with education providers and sport practitioners as well as policymakers.

31. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) also combines inclusion and prevention objectives in its Sport for Protection initiatives, which have a similar tone. The Sport for Protection toolkit, for implementation from 2016 to 2018, supports increased protection outcomes for forcibly displaced children and youth. The toolkit has helped to foster better protection outcomes for refugee and internally displaced children and youth through organized sport activities. UNHCR also finalized the learning programme for the youth sport facilitator course, a platform to create, manage and sustain a youth sport programme in marginalized communities and situations in crisis.

32. Among Member States, Monaco and the Philippines reported peace-specific initiatives aimed at promoting reconciliation among communities in conflict. For example, the Monaco-based non-governmental organization Peace and Sport developed the "sport simple solutions" concept, which consists of providing sport equipment, venues and rules with limited resources and allowing the practice of sport anywhere to achieve global peace goals. The initiative played a role in discussions between Colombia and Monaco that led to the signing of an agreement aimed at developing sport activities for social inclusion in the context of the Colombian peace-through-sport programme. Similarly, through its Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process, the Philippines has launched initiatives and/or partnered with various non-State armed groups and relevant agencies to conduct sport activities in the context of the peace process as a critical means of preventing the escalation of violence in the conflict-affected area of Mindanao.

33. In most cases, reported initiatives targeted particular segments of the population for intervention, children and youth being the most cited beneficiaries, particularly those in situations of conflict, post-conflict or humanitarian crisis. In addition to children and youth, women and older persons were cited among the targeted beneficiaries in Palau. UNDP also reported on initiatives in Argentina with particular attention given to the empowerment of women and reductions in gender-based violence. UNESCO reported on its actions with Juventus football club to raise

awareness and fight against all forms of discrimination, promote social integration and enhance inclusive societies through football.

34. Persons with disabilities were also among the groups targeted, particular attention being paid to improved access to opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity. The Russian Federation highlighted marked progress in the proportion of persons with disabilities who are systematically active in sport, rising from less than 1 per cent in 2000 to 12.1 per cent in 2018. Turkey and Ukraine also reported on initiatives with similar objectives. These initiatives showcased the alignment of the priorities of the Sustainable Development Goals with the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as well as strong collaboration with the Paralympic and Deaflympic movements.

35. Some attention was also given to the role of sport to preserve and safeguard cultural traditions and ancestral values, related to the so-called traditional games of indigenous peoples. Beginning in 2017, UNESCO has undertaken an initiative to safeguard and promote traditional sports and games. The initiative is also aimed at developing an online and interactive encyclopedia of traditional sports and games, developing policy guidelines to safeguard and promote such sports and games, establishing an international platform on them, and promoting cultural and sporting events. An ad hoc advisory committee and four specialized working groups were established to implement the initiative, which has gained large support from the Group of Friends of UNESCO Traditional Sports and Games, comprised of India, Madagascar, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, Senegal, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.

36. Guatemala, the Russian Federation and Ukraine also reported on efforts to improve Olympic and Paralympic performance and allocate more resources to high-performance sports. The Russian Federation has also placed increased attention on developing itself as a centre for mega sport events and on ensuring effective and secure event management. Since 2008, 3,800 international sport competitions have been organized in the country, including 95 world and European championships in Olympic sports, which has resulted in increased tourist travel to the Russian Federation during the period, contributing to social and economic development.

C. Sport integrity

37. With regard to sport integrity, Ukraine reported its ratification of the Anti-Doping Convention of the Council of Europe, the International Convention against Doping in Sport and, in 2016, the Convention on the Manipulation of Sports Competitions of the Council of Europe.

38. Among United Nations entities, the International Labour Organization (ILO), OHCHR and UNODC have been particularly active in advancing a human rights-based approach to sport sustainability and sport implementation, reducing corruption and promoting the ethical implementation of sport and sporting events.

39. Throughout 2016, ILO worked with the International Olympic Committee to prepare the sustainability strategy of the Committee, incorporating elements of the decent work agenda, including workforce, skills, gender and equality and occupational safety and health. ILO and OHCHR also worked with partners to develop the Mega Sporting Events Platform for Human Rights,[16] a multi-stakeholder platform involving international organizations, sport governing bodies, civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and trade unions representing athletes. Based on

[16] See www.ihrb.org/megasportingevents/mse-about.

the sporting chance principles,[17] the initiative is aimed at embedding respect for human rights through the life cycle of mega sporting events and in alignment with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. This has culminated in the establishment of the Centre for Sport and Human Rights, launched in Geneva in June 2018. In the past three years, OHCHR has also cooperated with a number of Russian and international stakeholders to include non-discrimination policies in preparations for the International Federation of Association Football World Cup in 2018 and beyond. In 2017 OHCHR joined forces with UNESCO and the European Coalition of Cities against Racism to further non-discrimination and anti-racism in sport in the Russian Federation. Consequently, in September 2017, the city of Moscow confirmed its willingness to join the coalition. Participants at the meeting held in September 2017 suggested the establishment of a non-discrimination legacy after the World Cup in 2018. This suggestion was supported by stakeholders in the Russian Federation.

40. UNODC has been providing increasing support to Governments and sport organizations to address the forms of corruption that undermine the integrity of sport and its role in contributing the Sustainable Development Goals. In particular, UNODC, along with Brazil, China, India, the Russian Federation and South Africa, co-organized a conference in 2018 on the theme "Safeguarding sport from corruption", which was attended by numerous Governments, international organizations and sport organizations. UNODC also helped to deliver workshops for officials from Brazil, Ghana, Nigeria and Viet Nam focused on preventing the manipulation of competitions. UNODC also developed numerous publications on sport integrity and served on the working group of the International Partnership against Corruption in Sport, the G-20 Anti-Corruption Working Group and the Working Group on Action 3 of the Kazan Action Plan.

IV. Resource mobilization, programming and implementation

41. The existing international policy discussion on sport, physical activity and active play acknowledges the critical role of cross-sectoral partnerships to ensure not only the effective impact but also the sustainability of funding and reach. Sport-based initiatives have been overly reliant on foreign funding that often leads to donor-driven and short-term initiatives.[18] The longevity and reach of sport-based initiatives are maximized by strategically leveraging their linkages to larger social, economic or political goals at the national and international levels. By working at these intersections, resource mobilization for sport-based initiatives becomes engrained in wider development financing and other forms of resource mobilization. In order to ensure results in this regard, resource mobilization for sport must also incorporate the transfer of knowledge and capacity-building for effective programme design and for securing long-term partnerships.

42. The reported sport-based initiatives featured a wide range of implementing partners, including social development professionals and organizations, sport, academic and humanitarian organizations and Member States. This mix is also reflected in funding sources, with many of the reported initiatives co-funded through State, philanthropic and private means.

[17] See www.ihrb.org/megasportingevents/sporting-chance-principles.

[18] Lindsey, I., "Governance in sport-for-development: problems and possibilities of (not) learning from international development", *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, vol. 52, No. 7 (2017), pp. 801–818.

V. Promoting and facilitating effective research, monitoring and evaluation

43. Experts in the field have highlighted the need to better assess how sport-based initiatives achieve positive outcomes within given contexts. By investigating the procedural and policy dynamics that need to be in place for sport-based initiatives to have a sustainable positive impact, a strengthened evidence base would be established from which to draw good practices and other benchmarks for assessing how and how much sport-based initiatives contribute to sustainable development. This would help in the identification of standard indicators for measuring the contribution of sport.

44. There is also a need to improve the availability of sport-related data and to highlight the applicability of such data to assessing other policy domains. For example, gender-disaggregated data on sport participation provide meaningful insight into progress on gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. The reports from the Russian Federation and Ukraine also provided good examples, as data disaggregation showcased the impact on their sport-based initiatives on the inclusion of persons with disabilities.[19]

45. The global indicator framework for the Sustainable Development Goals provides a good starting point for identifying sub-indicators on sport-related policies and programmes. The Commonwealth secretariat, with support from UNESCO and other relevant stakeholders, is leading an effort to develop an indicator framework for assessing the contribution of sport-based initiatives to the achievement of the 10 Sustainable Development Goals prioritized in the Kazan Action Plan. A high-level steering committee and open-ended working group will be established to identify existing good practices and relevant data sets to develop model indicators and provide methodological guidance. The United Nations system will engage with this process, as appropriate, to foster alignment with ongoing work on the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals.

VI. Towards a coherent approach to sport for development and peace in the United Nations and beyond

46. The global framework for sport for development and peace is rapidly taking shape across many fronts. The United Nations has an important role to play in aligning the various tracks, which will require identifying complementarities at the policy level. A level of standardization and/or relatability will therefore be created, which will encourage cross-sectoral assessments and allow Member States to see more easily how investments in one area impact progress in another. As the Kazan Action Plan responds to several needs and objectives of the of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace, which was updated in 2016 — namely the strengthening of a common vision, a coherent information-sharing and policy follow-up framework, as well as priorities for multi-stakeholder partnerships at the international, regional, national and local levels — this can be used as a basis upon which to build strengthened coherence and coordination across the United Nations system.

[19] The full submissions of Member States, the United Nations system and related entities are available at www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/sport-for-development-and-peace.html.

A. United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace 2018–2020

47. The proposed update to the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace is aimed at outlining a system-wide approach to leveraging sport for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The proposed approach would more systematically engage the parallel and complementary work on sport for development and peace across the United Nations system, while also acknowledging and building upon important work being done in other intergovernmental and sport organizations at the international level. It is also aimed at promoting greater coherence and efficiency in programme planning and resource mobilization on the ground. The update is based on the need to optimize the synergies and address the challenges identified in the current review of progress, and benefited from inputs and reviews from stakeholders within and beyond the United Nations system.

48. The proposed update builds on the lines of action of the version adopted in 2016 to outline four thematic priorities: (a) a strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace; (b) policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies; (c) resource mobilization, programming and implementation; and (d) research, monitoring and evaluation (see table).

Proposed update to the Action Plan

Principle thematic area	*Objective*	*Action area*
1. Strengthened global framework on sport for development and peace	(a) To strengthen a shared common vision and policy approach to guide the work of Member States and the United Nations system on sport for development and peace (b) To promote the development of a system-wide approach to the review and implementation of sport-based initiatives aimed at enhancing development and peace	(i) Using the overarching policy commitments of the Kazan Action Plan as a basis, align work streams on sport policy, sport for development and peace and sport integrity across the United Nations system (ii) Draw on various expertise within and beyond the United Nations system to further refine the thematic focuses of policy areas of the Kazan Action Plan in order to ensure their full complementarity with the work of the United Nations system across all pillars (iii) Establish guidance and toolkits for using the Kazan Action Plan as a framework for engagement on sport for development and peace across various contexts

Principle thematic area	*Objective*	*Action area*
2. Policy development for mainstreaming and integrating sport for development and peace in development programmes and policies	(a) To foster greater cross-sectoral alignment of the work on sport at the national level (b) To establish national policy frameworks for mainstreaming sport in development processes, in line with the main policy areas of the Kazan Action Plan	Build capacity for joint implementation and/or joint monitoring of the impact of sport-based and sport-related initiatives across ministries of youth, sport, health, environment, justice, education and culture, and other areas, as appropriate to the national context
3. Resource mobilization, programming and implementation	To promote innovative funding mechanisms and multi-stakeholder arrangements at all levels	(i) Encourage multi-stakeholder programme development and implementation at all levels (ii) Identify a forum for the systematic exchange of information on good practices in sport for development and peace across the research, programming and policy fields (iii) Strengthen partnerships at the policy level across the intergovernmental and non-governmental development sectors, sport federations and other civil society stakeholders
4. Research, monitoring and evaluation	(a) To identify cross-cutting issues and/or standards in the field of sport for development and peace (b) To ensure that effective attention is given to the contribution of sport and sport-based initiatives in the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	Strengthen national statistical capacity and monitoring systems to ensure access to sport-related data that are of high quality, accessible, timely, reliable and disaggregated by income, sex, age, race, ethnicity, migration status, disability, geographic location and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including through the establishment of indicator protocols

B. Institutional architecture

49. Within the United Nations system, the work on sport for development and peace lies across many work programmes, organizations and intergovernmental mechanisms, working collaboratively with relevant external organizations and mechanisms. In 2017 the Secretary-General began to strengthen collaboration between the Organization and sport federations. Despite closing the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, the Secretary-General welcomed deeper collaboration with the International Olympic Committee. In so doing he signalled the aim to ensure mutual alignment of the priorities of the Committee and the United Nations in their work on sport for development and peace. With this symbiosis, while recognizing the autonomy of both structures, the United Nations is providing support to the International Olympic Committee in its contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the sustainability strategy of the Committee.

On its part, the Committee is building capacity for a sustainability approach across the Olympic movement. Furthermore, various United Nations entities, sport federations and other stakeholders have been exploring ways of building upon this strategic alliance.[20]

50. As outlined in the present report, many entities are contributing to policy development and implementation in the area of sport. UNESCO plays a pivotal role in its work with ministers and senior officials in charge of sport and physical education. Its lead in supporting the International Conference of Ministers and Senior Officials Responsible for Physical Education and Sport and the Intergovernmental Committee for Physical Education and Sport is critical to any efforts towards policy coherence in the work on sport for development and peace. Similarly, the support of UNODC to the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption is important in bridging potential gaps in the attention paid to sport integrity and the ability of sport to positively impact development.

51. Having hosted the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, which supported the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace, from its inception until its closure in 2017, the United Nations Office at Geneva has continued to play a key role in advancing the sport for development and peace agenda, in its support of policy dialogue in Geneva-based intergovernmental processes as well as its support for multi-stakeholder dialogue on sport for development and peace in the Lake Geneva region, bringing together Geneva-based and other European-based United Nations entities and sport federations.

52. With the closure of the United Nations Office on Sport for Development and Peace, the substantive portfolio on sport for development and peace was transferred to the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Since the transfer the Department has been providing support to the intergovernmental mechanisms in New York on sport-related discussions. As the lead entity providing support for the review and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and a range of intergovernmental commitments addressing the social and economic dimensions of sustainable development, such as poverty, inequality and social inclusion, leaving no one behind, the Department is well placed to mainstream the various tracks of engagement on sport for development and peace into relevant intergovernmental discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its advisory bodies and the high-level political forum. The Department will draw on its convening power and its normative and analytical work to support Member States by curating and synthesizing information on good practices in policy development and the implementation of sport-based initiatives aimed at development and peace, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders across civil society, the United Nations system, academia and beyond.

53. Within this institutional landscape, strong inter-agency collaboration will be the key to effective delivery at the policy and programme levels. While the Department of Economic and Social Affairs has begun efforts to reinvigorate inter-agency dialogue on sport for development and peace, the updated United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace can form a basis for guiding a system-wide approach that engages all work streams and sources of expertise, without introducing duplication and inefficiencies.

[20] Seminar on the theme "Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through sport: partnerships and institutional responses for greater coherence and effectiveness", held on 5 October 2017, Lausanne Switzerland. See www.thinksport.org/en/latest-news-and-views/sport-sustainable-development-goals-seminar-for-international-key-players-6400.

VII. The way forward

54. The practice of sport and the platform of sporting events present a viable space for engaging with development and peacebuilding where they intersect. The potential positive impact and sustainability of the practice of sport and sporting events on development and peace at any level is dependent on purposeful and participatory planning and implementation, which is based on adequate research, monitoring and evaluation that address not only the outcomes of the initiatives but also the processes that lead to these outcomes. Another important factor is to ensure that there are clear policy frameworks within which sport-based initiatives can operate. These policy frameworks must not only make clear when and how sport-based initiatives are best placed to effect positive change in the development context but provide mechanisms for effectively monitoring these contributions. The institutional architecture in which these frameworks operate must also be organized to systematize the exchange of information and promote coherent, integrated approaches at all levels.

55. **In order to further the work on sport for development and peace at all levels and promote policy coherence, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

(a) **Acknowledging the Kazan Action Plan and its follow-up framework as a guiding framework for engagement in maximizing the contribution of sport as an enabler of sustainable development, and welcoming the update of the United Nations Action Plan on Sport for Development and Peace 2018–2020 as a means of strengthening system-wide coherence in this area;**

(b) **Encouraging effective integration of the consideration of the contribution of sport to various development objectives in the review and follow-up processes of relevant development frameworks and agendas, including follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development, review of the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities follow-up to the World Programme of Action for Youth and in the review and follow-up processes of the 2030 Agenda, including the high-level political forum on sustainable development;**

(c) **Acknowledging the important advocacy role played by international sport federations in bridging the policy priorities of sport administrators, the United Nations and national and municipal governments, and acknowledging the deepened relationship between the International Olympic Committee and the United Nations in this regard.**

56. **As the United Nations seeks to bring its various work streams on sport for development and peace closer together and to ensure the mainstreamed consideration of sport and sport-based initiatives across its pillars of work, Member States may wish to continue their support of its work on sport for development and peace within the new institutional architecture and encourage strong inter-agency collaboration in this area.**